Completion of Parichha Power Project

1877. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the completion of Parichha Power Project in Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh is behind its deadline because of differences between different stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to take any action to resolve the matter and ensure speedy completion of the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Parichha Thermal Power Project Extention (2x210MW) in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh was under construction by Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyuat Nigam Limited. The original commissioning schedule of the project was envisaged as April, 2005 for Unit 3 and August, 2005 for Unit 4 respectively. The work on the project came to stand still during December, 2003 due to non release of payment to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) due to non furnishing of Government warranty/guarantee by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with the Government of Uttar Pradesh by the Government of India for furnishing the requisite warranty/ guarantee of PFC so that funds are released to BHEL and the work restarted. After the follow up the funds were released to BHEL in March, 2004 and the work restarted after about 13 months. The revised commissioning schedule of the project was envisaged as March, 2006 and September, 2006 for Unit 3 & 4. The work on the project is in the final stages of completion. The Unit 3 is likely to be commissioned during March, 2006 and Unit 4 in September, 2006 as per the revised schedule.

Patent applications from India

†1878. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Government's claim of World-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

acclamation about India's progress in the field of science, the number of applications for patents being filed from India, have decreased;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its main reason are less allocation of funds for research in the Budget by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would make any provisions in the ensuing Budget to increase the funds allocation being spent on research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No Sir. In fact, filings of patent applications from India have gone up. The filings in the Indian Patent Office by Indian companies/ institutions/individuals/government agencies were 2179, 2371, 2693, 3218 and 3630 in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05 respectively. A study of the applications filed by Indian companies/ institutions/individuals/government agencies at the US Patent Office shows that the filings have an upward trend. The numbers are 636, 813, 1105, 937 and 1278 in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. The allocation for Research and Development has actually been increasing over the years.

Biotechnology policy

†1879. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the policy on bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology has formulated a Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy, which is a comprehensive roadmap for addressing cross-cutting issues related to human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotion of industry and trade, setting up of biotech parks, regulatory mechanism

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.